

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4-13 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 4-6 are amended, claim 3 is canceled and new claims 7-13 are added. New claims 7-13 are fully supported by the Specification, for example, at pages 10-11 and 14. Thus, claims 7-13 do not add new matter. Reconsideration based on the above Amendments and the following Remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 2, rejects claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,407,763 to Yamaguchi et al. (hereinafter "Yamaguchi"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Yamaguchi teaches an image display medium including a pair of substrates, and plural types of particle groups contained between the substrates to be movable between the substrates by an applied electric field. The types of particle groups include particles that are different in color and charging properties (col. 2, lines 35-39). Respective particles are moved according to the strength and the polarity of the applied electric field (col. 2, lines 44-47). Yamaguchi further teaches reacting the fine powder mixed with the particles with a silane compound, a silane coupling agent or silicone oil.

Claims 1, 2 and 4-13 recite, among other features, that at least some of the fine particles of the first particles have been subjected to treatment with a coupling agent containing a nitrogen atom, or have been subjected to treatment with a silicone oil containing a nitrogen atom (emphasis added). Applicants respectfully submit that Yamaguchi fails to teach treating the fine particles with either a coupling agent containing a nitrogen atom or a silicone oil containing a nitrogen atom.

Claims 4 and 9-12 recite, among the features, at least one of 1) at least some of the fine particles of the first particles and 2) at least some of the fine particles of the second

particles are electroconductive fine particles. Applicants respectfully submit that Yamaguchi does not disclose fine particles containing electroconductive fine particles.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Yamaguchi neither teaches nor suggests the features outlined above as variously recited in claims 1, 2, and 4-13. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, and 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Yamaguchi are respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 5, rejects claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over, U.S. Patent 6,400,492 to Morita et al. (hereinafter "Morita"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Morita discloses an electrophoretic display liquid including a dispersion medium that includes a first granular material having a one or more hollows therein and a color and a second granular material having a color different from the color of the first granular material (see Abstract).

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 2 and 4-13 recite first and second particles having different colors filled between the first substrate and the second substrate in other than a liquid medium (emphasis added).

Applicants respectfully submit, therefore, that Morita neither teaches nor suggests the features recited in claims 1, 2 and 4-13. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to claims 1, 2 and 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over, Morita are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this Application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 2 and 4-13 are earnestly solicited.



Application No. 09/879,003

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this Application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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